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Monday, June 27, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

TAYLOR AND TOM'S ROMANCE HEATS UP

Swift bring the actor home to meet her parents. 21

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PURPLE REIGN

The 'Queen' of black internet radio in Philly hooks her listeners with music, then hits them with what they need to hear: Get out and vote. 4

PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WEST VIRGINIA'S WORST FLOODING IN A CENTURY KILLS 24

West Virginia's three most devastated counties and possibly others will receive federal assistance after the state's worst flooding in more than a century killed at least 24 people, officials said. President Barack Obama declared a major disaster for West Virginia and ordered federal aid to affected individuals in Kanawha, Greenbrier and Nicholas counties that could include grants for temporary housing, repairs and other programs. Obama spoke with West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin to give his condolences and make sure the governor has the federal resources he needs, White House spokesman Eric Schultz said. West Virginia's death toll from flooding is the highest for any state this year. REUTERS

BREXIT TURMOIL ALARMS ASIA, DEEPENS PARTY CONFLICTS

2 Turmoil unleashed by Britain's vote to leave the European Union heightened anxiety in Asia on Sunday, with China, Japan and South Korea fretting over the risk to global financial stability a few hours before markets reopen. In Britain, open conflict spread from the ruling Conservatives to the opposition, and senior Labour lawmakers attempted a coup against their leader after traditional supporters rejected the party's pro-EU stand in droves at Thursday's referendum. Splits widened across the nation. Over three million Britons signed a petition calling for a re-run of the referendum, with the number climbing by the hour, and an opinion poll showed a strong majority of Scots now want to break with the United Kingdom. REUTERS

DEADLY CALIF. WILDFIRE DESTROYS 150 HOMES, MORE THREATENED

3 A massive wildfire burning out of control in the foothills of central California has left at least 150 homes in ruins and damaged another 75, officials said, warning that more residents may be forced to flee the advancing flames. The so-called Erskine fire broke out some 40 miles northeast of Bakersfield in Kern County, has already claimed at least two lives, sent three firefighters to the hospital and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes. More than 1,100 firefighters have been deployed to battle the blaze, which has blackened some 35,700 acres and was zero percent contained. California Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency for Kern County. REUTERS

Fireworks illuminate the sky during the 39th annual Macy's Fourth of July fireworks in New York City last year. GETTY IMAGES

ADVANCE PEEK ON THE HOLIDAY FORECAST

So far, this summer has lived up to the long-range predictions of being an unseasonably warm one.

Although prolonged heat and humidity have been in short supply, windy, warm conditions interrupted by brief episodes of showers and storms will be the rule heading into the last week of June and the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

The hottest and most humid part of this summer still lies ahead, as the dogs will certainly start barking as August will bring us a pure summer swelter.

After a nice warm, but dry, final weekend of June, things will heat up as you start this week and humidity levels will be on the rise as well. The next chance you will be reaching for your umbrella will be on Tuesday. Showers and storms, a few possibly severe, will start to rock the Interstate 95 corridor from Philly to NYC to Boston.

The highest threat will be later in the day Tuesday and Tuesday night. Computer models are indicating that the system associated with the storms will begin to slow up and scattered showers and storms could linger into Wednesday, especially from New York City and points north and east toward Boston.

The Fourth of July weekend will start out nice. Friday should bring a decent amount of sunshine with the mercury hanging out in the warm 80s. The only exception could be Philly as a weak disturbance might set off a late storm, but the Shore is looking good.

Saturday should turn out to be a great day as ample sunshine and warm temps will keep the barbecue rain-free throughout the Northeast. Beaches up and down the coast will feature lots of sun and readings mainly in the upper 70s

I'm a bit concerned about Sunday, July 3, when increasing humidity, combined with a weak frontal wave could kick-off some afternoon and evening storms. How widespread, though, is still in doubt. Regardless, it will be a sticky day with temps into the 80s inland, upper 70s at beach locations.

By Monday the Fourth, the frontal system responsible for any storms on Sunday should start to clear the coast allowing for a return to sunshine with lower humidity. The only location where a leftover shower or storm could linger is along the southern Jersey Shore.

Enjoy the upcoming holiday weekend, and be safe.

Bolaris' Weather Watch

JOHN BOLARIS
@weathersavior

Philadelphia

Monday: Heating up, kissing a high of 90

Tuesday: Showers and storms moving in, humid, High 87

Wednesday: Leftover morning shower or storm, High 84

Thursday: Sunshine, High 85

Friday: Possible afternoon or evening storm, High 86

Weekend

Saturday: Sunshine, High 85

Sunday: Possible afternoon storms, humid, High 85

July Fourth: Early shower, then sunny, High 86

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Radio host Purple Queen at the PQRadio1 studios in West Philadelphia. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

In Philly, black internet radio's future is Purple

Media entrepreneur Saj "Purple Queen" Blackwell is gearing up to bring the DNC to the "hood" on her internet radio station, PQRadio1.com

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When Purple Queen, 39, accosts former Gov. Ed Rendell at a news conference related to the upcoming Democratic National Convention for a streaming interview on Facebook live, he knows exactly who she is.

"Look, I'm wearing purple," Rendell says, showing off his tie.

Interviewing him is Saj "Purple Queen" Blackwell, the always attired in purple owner of PQRadio1, Philly's only internet radio station owned by an African-American woman. It's also one of the only black media outlets committed to covering local and national politics, but blended with hip-hop, as Purple Queen puts it.

"Hip-hop is a social consciousness that cannot be denied, and one of the most powerful ones because it affects everyone from youths to elders, right off the bat," Purple Queen said inside PQRadio1's studio at West Philly's Community Education Center.

In between broadcasts of hip-hop ranging from '90s to 2000s classics and the latest trap music, PQRadio1 includes talk shows focusing on a variety of subjects and interviews with local politicians on "A Moment with Purple," Purple Queen's signature talk show.

It's all part of her long tradition of community involvement.

A Chester, Pennsylvania, native, Purple Queen, who's married to Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell's grandson, was the head of Students Against Drugs at Springton Lake Middle School, president of the Black Students Union at Penn State, and calls former Chester Mayor John Linder, who put her on the town's AM radio station, her first mentor.

"After I tasted that, I've always wanted to do radio," she said.

In some ways, as Purple Queen lays out her vision, the music is the bait to hook listeners so she can slam them with the message.

"Artists are soothsayers. They speak on what's gong on in the community, what happens to them in the streets, on being stopped by police officers, on what they call their voice not mattering, why they don't go to vote," she said. "If you are an African-American person, your ancestors were mauled by dogs, burned by the state — all sorts of torturous things — and killed, all so we could have this right to vote. It's important that you feel empowered and take advantage of that right and vote."

With that goal in mind, Purple Queen in recent months has been stepping up her work on PQRadio1, which has been in development for three years, to go beyond covering City Council and Mayor Jim Kenney and prepping for the Democratic National Convention, July 25-28.

"We are going to be bringing the DNC to Hakeem and Sharifa, we are going to be bringing them to the airwaves of the streets," she said. "How is the DNC going to affect Philadelphia? Does the regular Philadelphian really benefit? … We want to know why and how, we want to see it and we want to be a part of it."

Purple Queen, a Muslim, said she doesn't think Republican presumptive nominee Donald Trump has a chance.

"His own actions, his own rhetoric and racism and hate will end up beating him," she said.

"We break it down so our regular Joes can totally understand what's going on and get involved and want to care about, 'Is it Hillary?' or, 'Why hasn't Bernie backed out yet?'" she said. "We're encouraging our regular communities, quote-unquote, the hood, to care."

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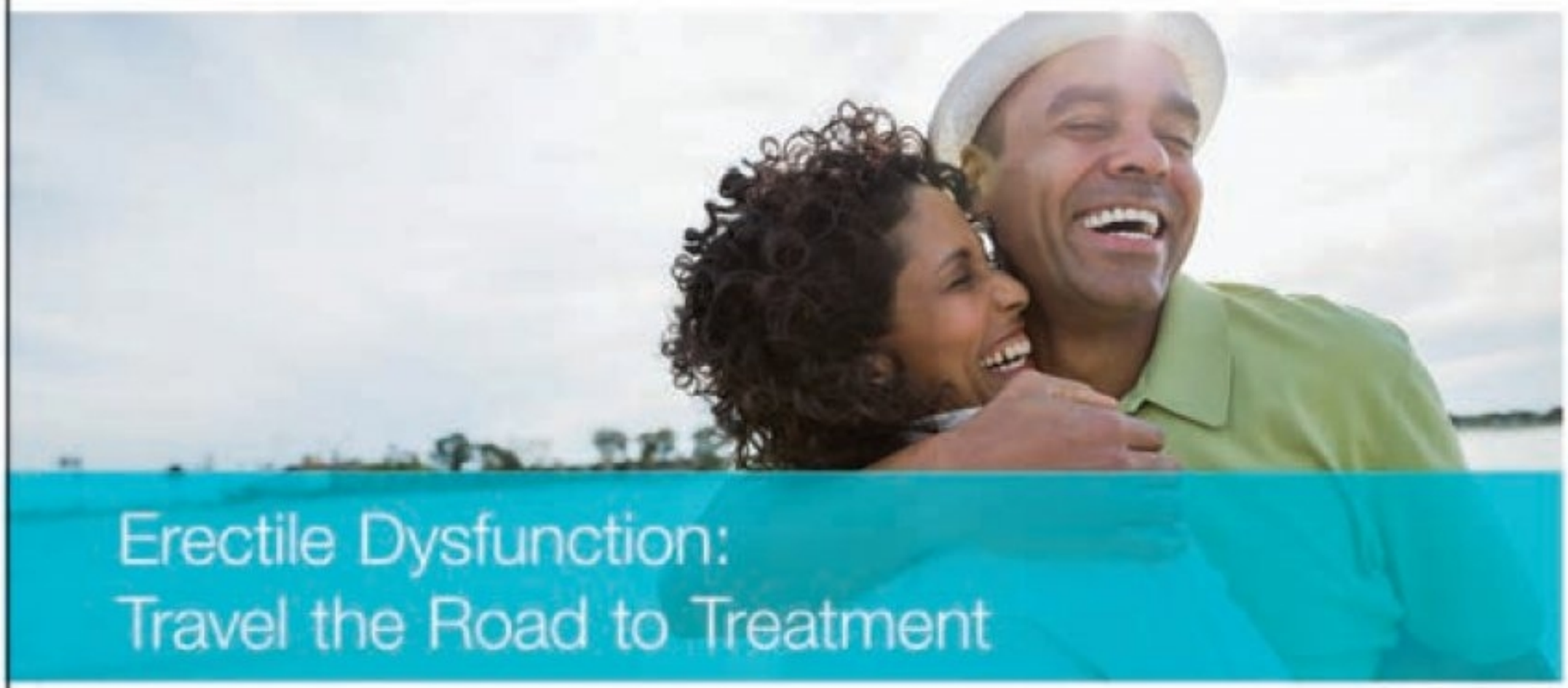

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Ben Simmons' cousin killed in hit-and-run

The Sixers' first round draft pick Ben Simmons, right, with his cousin Zachary Simmons. VIA @BENSIMMONS25

Basketball star grieving days after he was brought into Sixers' franchise.

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The Sixers' first overall draft pick last week is grieving just days after being brought into the franchise over the loss of a family member.

Australian-born Ben Simmons' cousin Zachary Simmons was killed early Saturday after celebrating a friend's birthday in Hoboken, New Jersey, WCBS reported.

Zachary Simmons, 21, of Ramsey, New Jersey, was struck around 3:30 a.m. Saturday by a black SUV believed to have been driving at more than 70 mph, according to WCBS.

The car is believed to have been a Cadillac Escalade, GMC Yukon or Chevy Tahoe.

"To be speeding enough to kill my child is beyond me," Zachary Simmons' mother, Monique Steele, told WCBS. "He had just went to the NBA draft for his first cousin — number one draft pick."

Ben Simmons responded to the news on Twitter, writing, "Hearing the news this morning is a reminder to never forget the important things in life."

"I'm glad I could share this moment in my life with you. Rest in peace Cuzzo. Much love Zachary Simmons," he wrote.

BRIEFS

SEPTA bus driver chases, catches purse snatcher

Keep this in mind the next time you wonder why your bus is late.

A SEPTA bus driver was being praised as a hero Friday for chasing down a purse snatcher who mugged a woman at one of his stops.

Bus operator Charles Arterbury told the Associated Press he was making his first stop of his shift early June 20 when he saw the suspect attack the woman.

Surveillance footage, later released by the transit authority, shows Arterbury running out of the bus and after the man. He reportedly caught the suspect a block away, and — with the help of two passengers — restrained him while dialing 911.

SEPTA officials commended Arterbury for his quick response, calling it "a heroic act" on Friday, when they released the footage.

"It was directly related to the courageous acts of Mr. Arterbury that police responded quickly and were able to make a successful apprehension here," SEPTA Police Captain Charles Lawson said, according to Philly Mag.

The incident happened at 29th Street and Girard Avenue at 4:35 a.m. on Monday, June 20, SEPTA said. CHRIS CAESAR

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Mother charged in death of 4-year-old who shot self

Reports say Shakeya Holmes tried to conceal the circumstances of her daughter's death in a North Philly home.

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The mother of the 4-year-old girl who is believed to have accidentally killed herself with a gun last week has been charged with third-degree murder.

Shakeya Holmes, 25, also is facing involuntary manslaughter, endangering the welfare of children and related charges, according to court records. She was arraigned on Saturday and was being held at Riverside Correctional Facility as of Sunday.

Holmes was in her home on the 1800 block of North 20th Street on June 23 with her two daughters, ages 3 and 4, when the 4-year-old was killed by a gunshot to the eye. She is believed to have shot herself by accident after finding the gun, Philly.com reported.

Holmes was found sitting on the front steps of the home holding her daughter and weeping after 911 was called at 12:25 p.m. The girl was pronounced dead half an hour later.

However, police told Philly.com that Holmes first claimed the bullet came into the house through a window, which was quickly disproven by the bullet's trajectory.

Shakeya Holmes with her 4-year-old daughter in a Facebook picture. PROVIDED

The gun, a .40-caliber, was found on a shelf in a closet that would have been inaccessible to a child.

Police told Philly.com Holmes did not get medical attention right away, and was instead "covering up" the shooting after the girl's death.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Holmes' boyfriend Demetrius Williams.

Holmes' preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 13.

BRIEF

New York Times fashion photographer Bill Cunningham dies at 87

Bill Cunningham, the celebrated New York Times fashion photographer known for his shots of emerging trends on the streets of New York City, died on Saturday at age of 87 after being hospitalized for a stroke.

Cunningham worked for the New York Times for nearly 40 years, operating "as a dedicated chronicler of fashion and as an unlikely cultural anthropologist," the newspaper said.

His photo spreads were a staple of the paper's Style section and chronicled changing fashion through his choice of themes such as swirling skirts, Birkin bags and gaudy floral prints.

"A lot of people complain about fashion and fast fashion. There is no fashion. That is baloney. Look at this," he said in a video for a recent spread in the paper on the use of black and white contrasts in clothing.

Cunningham took pictures of celebrated New Yorkers at swank events and traveled the city by bicycle for decades, often wearing his signature blue jacket, to shoot street fashion typically using a single-lens reflex camera. REUTERS

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Pride parades tinged with sadness after Orlando massacre

A view of marchers with a tribute to Orlando sign during the New York City Pride 2016 march on June 26, 2016. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The march in New York, held every year since 1970, began at noon near the Empire State Building and ended at Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn, the birthplace of the gay rights movement and the newest national monument.

Millions of people draped in the rainbow hues of LGBT pride turned out for parades across the United States on Sunday, two weeks after a massacre at a Florida nightclub stirred fear and solidarity among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, joined the march for a few blocks in an unannounced appearance. She waved while walking alongside New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Police stepped up security to reassure parade-goers and ward off potential threats after a gunman pledging allegiance to the Islamic State militant group killed 49 people at Orlando's Pulse nightclub on June 12. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

"This parade is New York City saying defiantly, we will stand up to hatred," de Blasio told a rally at the parade's terminus. "We will stand up to those who would try to undermine our values."

This was the first of a string of parades planned on Sunday in Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.

In New York and elsewhere, the mood was decidedly subdued for an event that in recent years has evolved from a protest march against police harassment into a roving street party.

"I've been so heartbroken and outraged by Orlando," said Dorothee Benz, 50, who was marching with a group called New York Supports Orlando. "We need to be out loud and proud more than ever, but it comes with mourning and anger."

By contrast, pure joy had emanated from the throngs of people who turned out for pride parades last June, just days after the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage across the country.

Some 2 million spectators had been expected to line the route of New York's parade this year, while organizers forecast a turnout of 1 million in Chicago.

Police in New York beefed up security with helicopter and maritime patrols and an increased presence of uniformed and plain-clothes officers, while authorities took similar steps in Chicago.

"We are monitoring from the air, looking for suspicious packages, which people should also report if they see anything," Chicago Police Department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said by phone from the parade route.

REUTERS

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Roller coaster carriage derails, injuring 11 at Scottish theme park

A roller coaster carriage at a theme park in Scotland came off its rails on Sunday and fell 30 feet onto a children's ride, local media reported, with police saying 11 people had been injured.

The Daily Record newspaper cited eyewitness reports saying the carriage, carrying 10 people, on the Tsunami ride at M&D's theme park in Motherwell in southern Scotland flew off the rails as it turned a corner and plummeted to the ground.

"A serious incident occurred at M&D's today involving the Tsunami roller coaster. We have all emergency services on site to assist. The theme park is closed until further notice," a spokeswoman for the park said in a statement.

M&D theme park in Motherwell, Scotland GETTY IMAGES

Lanarkshire police said emergency services were dealing with an incident at the theme park.

"At this time we are aware of 11 casualties — two adults and nine children, who are all being treated at local hospitals. We are unable to give more detail of their injuries at this stage," it said in a statement posted on Facebook.

The Scottish ambulance service said six ambulance crews, a special operations response team and emergency doctors had been sent to the park.

Pictures on Twitter showed people trying to help those trapped in an upside-down carriage.

REUTERS

BRIEF

Italy arrests second most wanted mafia boss

Italy's second most wanted mobster Ernesto Fazzalari was arrested on after almost two decades on the run, apprehended by the paramilitary Carabinieri police.

Fazzalari, of the notorious Calabrian 'Ndrangheta, Italy's richest and most powerful criminal organization, had been a fugitive since June 1996.

He was the country's second most wanted mafia boss in terms of influence and danger to society behind Matteo Messina Denaro, of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra Mafia, a police statement said.

Fazzalari, 46, faces a life sentence, having already been tried in absentia and found guilty of murder, mafia crimes, drug trafficking, robbery and illegal possession of weapons.

He was found in the early hours of Sunday in a house in a remote and mountainous area of the Calabria region on the southern tip of mainland Italy and did not resist arrest, the police said.

Fazzalari was at the head of one of the many family-based groups that control much of Calabrian society and make vast profits through the import and sale of drugs. REUTERS

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STRANGE DAYS

Europe in turmoil. Dems snoozing on the floor. Trump and Clinton trading punches. In political terms, last week was as surreal as a Buñuel film. (Yes, that's a tip of the hat to the Eurozone.) And this week? Put the clocks in the bathtub and the giraffe in the garage — here are three things to watch.

1. Brexit backlash
Politicos around the world will be scrutinizing the markets to measure the staying power of all the Brexit chaos. Wall Street was rattled to its foundation on Friday, and if that continues you can bet the D.C. crowd will get jumpy. Donald Trump has already suggested it is a harbinger of similar upheavals in the vote here this fall — meaning, he'll win. Hillary Clinton's play? If the economy starts pushing toward a free fall, watch her reprise a chorus of that old campaign favorite, "You Need a Steady Hand at the Wheel." And you know just who she has in mind.

2. Warren peace
For the longest time, hard-core lefties were practically begging Elizabeth Warren to jump into the race and hammer Clinton for the Democratic nomination. But this week, the progressive Massachusetts senator will instead hit the campaign trail with Clinton in the battleground state of Ohio. The clear hope: Warren will lure reluctant Bernie Sanders supporters into the camp. Of course, it would also be a trial run for Warren taking the VP spot ... doesn't seem likely, but stay tuned.

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

3. Cash dash
Have you noticed how Donald Trump is not appearing at so many big rallies lately? Perhaps that's because he is focusing more on fundraising, which has become a serious concern for his fellow Republicans. Many top GOPers fear the billionaire could wind up ironically outspent by the Dems if he doesn't do a better job attracting deep-pocketed donors. Trump will be in Colorado and Illinois this week, but watch for him to be sniffing out cash everywhere. It's a smart move. Even the little Monopoly man knows you have to pass go and collect $200 dollars now and then.

Trump GETTY IMAGES

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Clinton campaign hits Trump for seeing Brexit as boon to his business

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign accused Donald Trump on Sunday of caring more about how Britain's historic vote to leave the European Union would benefit his financial bottom line than how it would impact the U.S. economy.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook acknowledged parallels between the populist anger and anti-establishment fervor that fueled the Brexit vote and Trump's rise to the nomination, but said the Republican candidate's reaction showed he was not fit to occupy the White House.

"Hillary Clinton looks at this through the lens of how it's going to affect middle-class families, Donald Trump through the lens of how it will help his bottom line," Mook said on "Fox News Sunday."

Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

In a national television ad released on Sunday, the Clinton campaign featured the wealthy real estate developer's comments on Friday that the fall of the British currency after the Brexit vote could mean more business for his golf course in Turnberry, Scotland, where he was speaking.

"Every president is tested by world events, but Donald Trump thinks about how his golf resort can profit from them," said the 30-second ad.

Paul Manafort, campaign chairman for Trump, rejected the Clinton charge and said Trump was more in sync with the global economic frustration exemplified by the Brexit vote. In contrast, the Clinton ad showed her campaign's "tone deafness" by focusing on things the American people did not care about, he said.

REUTERS

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Supreme Court poised to issue major abortion ruling

Pro-choice and pro-life demonstrators rally outside the Supreme Court. GETTY IMAGES

The Supreme Court is due on Monday to issue its first major abortion ruling since 2007 against a backdrop of unremitting divisions among Americans on the issue and a decades-long decline in the rate at which women terminate pregnancies.

The court's decision on whether a Republican-backed 2013 Texas law placed an undue burden on women exercising their constitutional right to abortion is one of three remaining cases for the court to decide on Monday, the last day of its term. The other major one involves whether the justices will overturn the corruption conviction of former Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell.

The last time the justices decided a major abortion case was nine years ago when they ruled 5-4 to uphold a federal law banning a late-term abortion procedure.

Americans remain closely divided over whether abortion should be legal. In a Reuters/Ipso online poll involving 6,769 U.S. adults conducted from June 3 to June 22, 47 percent of respondents said abortion generally should be legal and 42 percent said it generally should be illegal.

Views on abortion in the United States have changed very little over the decades, according to historical polling data.
REUTERS

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Located in County Antrim, the Dark Hedges is comprised of beech trees that were planted in the eighteenth century. The famous roadway is used as the filming location for the Kingsroad in HBO's Game of Thrones.

Summer is Coming

GET YOUR **GAME OF THRONES** FIX IN NORTHERN IRELAND

IT'S NOT A WRAP.

Season six of *Game of Thrones* might be over, but that doesn't mean you have to wait until 2017 to experience the series again. Northern Ireland is one of the principal filming locations of HBO's gripping drama, and offers a host of locations and activities to let you get an inside look at the Seven Kingdoms. Our *Game of Thrones* Guide offers the best filming sites to visit in Northern Ireland, special experiences to try, and even some fun facts that you can use to impress fellow *Game of Thrones* fans.

Why Northern Ireland?

Most of *Game of Thrones* is filmed in Northern Ireland, both at Belfast's Titanic Studios and elsewhere throughout the region. Aesthetically, Northern Ireland's breadth of landscapes and environments translate naturally with the television series, which is meant to occur over two continents with varied terrain and climates. Northern Ireland's immense talents in production, directing, and cinematography made it an easy choice for filming the series. Since HBO brought the drama to the country for filming in 2009, it's estimated that roughly $160M has been infused into Northern Ireland's economy.

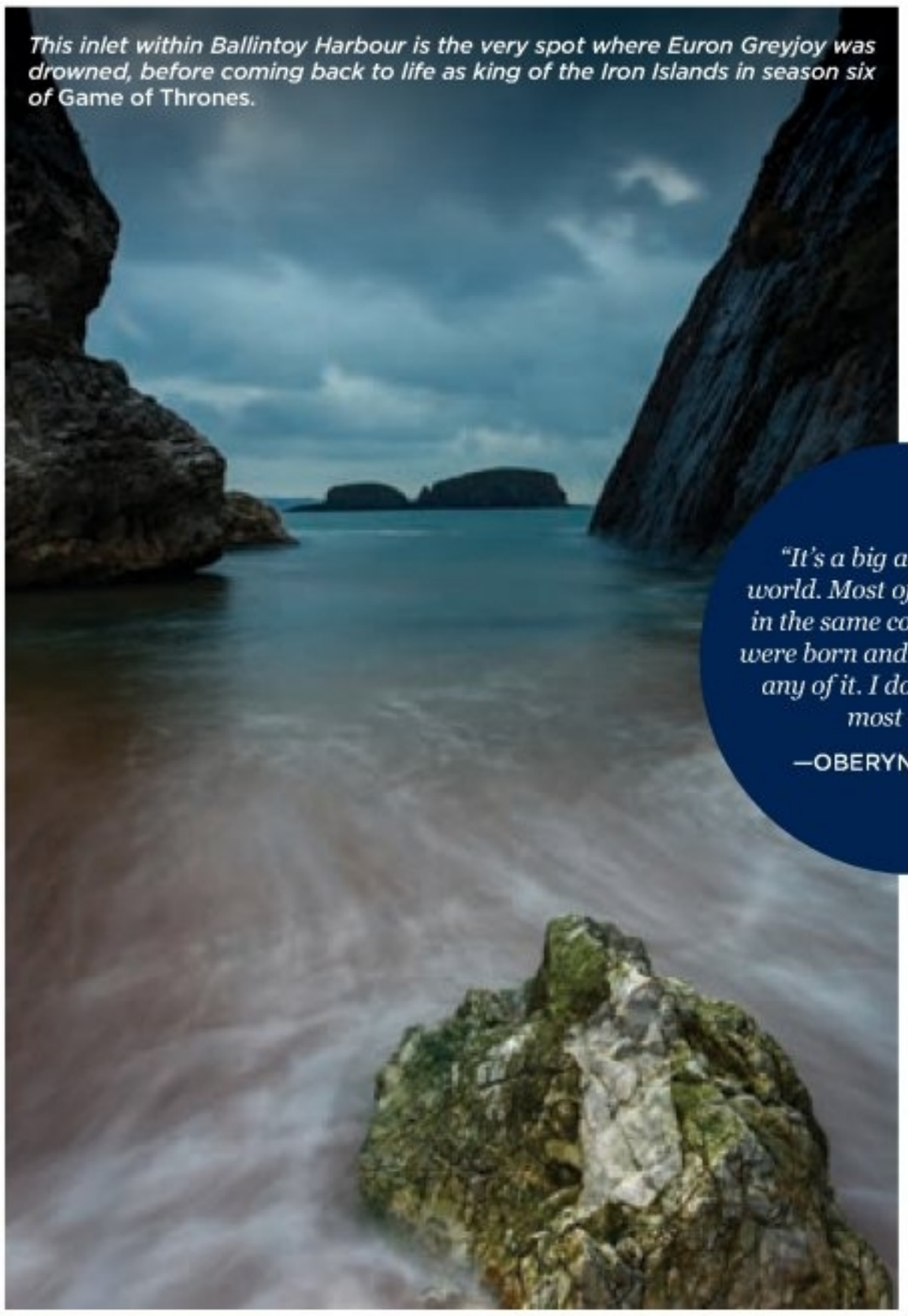
Tour the Countryside

Northern Ireland is home to many diverse landscapes, including glacial valleys and mountains, lush forests, and craggy coastlines. Throughout the region, ancient ruins and castles overlook rolling fields, bluffs, and winding rivers. Roughly the size of Connecticut, Northern Ireland boasts diverse settings despite its small area, providing an impeccable backdrop for the world of *Game of Thrones*, and an amazing touring opportunity for fans of the series. From the Haunted Forest to the Dothraki Grasslands, Northern Ireland's counties offer some of the most celebrated locations from *Game of Thrones*, allowing Westeros to come to life for visitors to this distinctive region.

UNITE THE SEVEN KINGDOMS

Since season one, it seems everyone who has sat on the Iron Throne

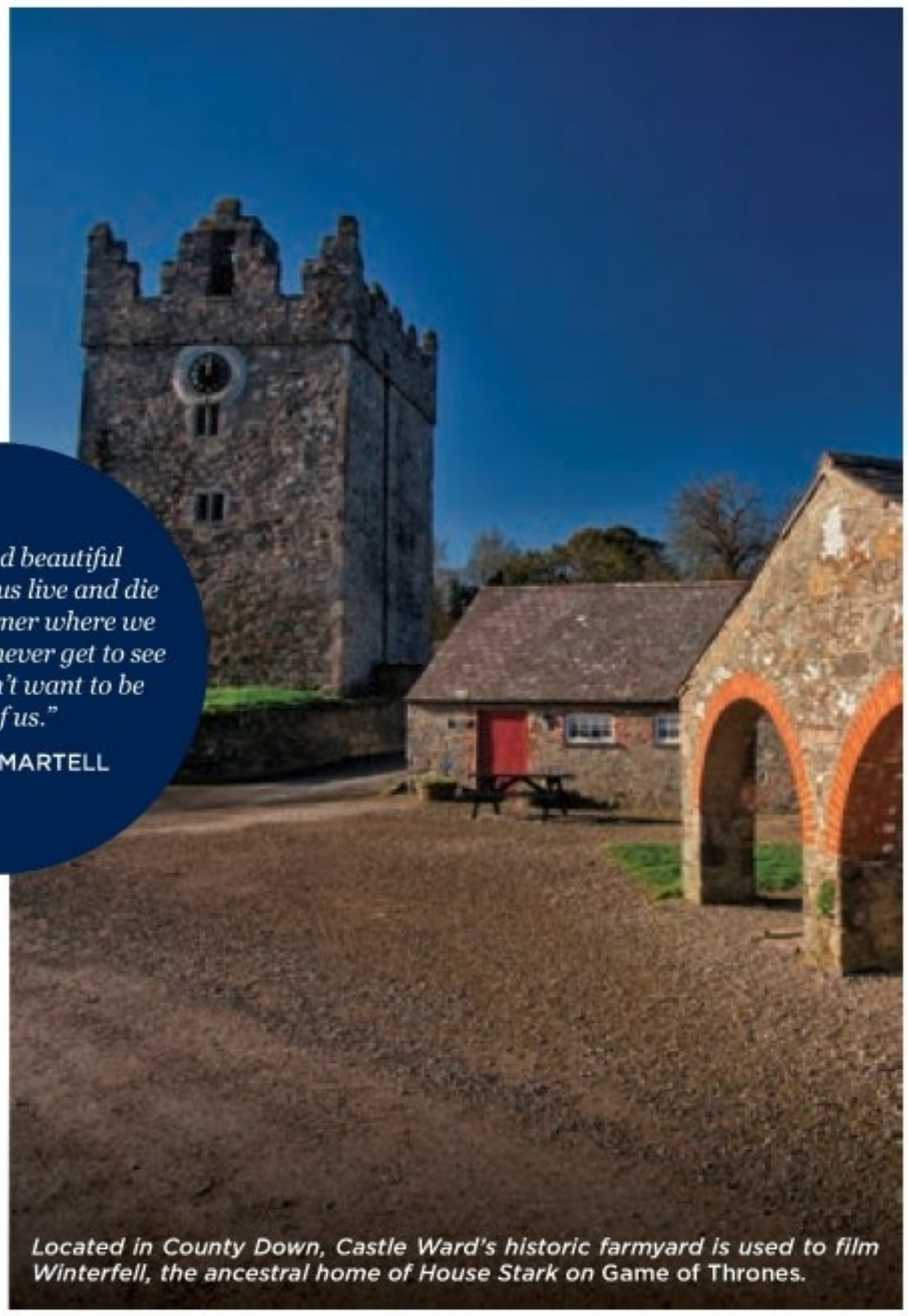
Ballintoy Harbour is used as the site of the Iron Islands in Game of Thrones. *The fishing village on the coast of County Antrim has remained largely unchanged in its history, making it a charming and authentic destination.*



This inlet within Ballintoy Harbour is the very spot where Euron Greyjoy was drowned, before coming back to life as king of the Iron Islands in season six of Game of Thrones.

"It's a big and beautiful world. Most of us live and die in the same corner where we were born and never get to see any of it. I don't want to be most of us."

—OBERYN MARTELL



Located in County Down, Castle Ward's historic farmyard is used to film Winterfell, the ancestral home of House Stark on Game of Thrones.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Titanic was built in Northern Ireland's largest shipyard in Belfast in the early 1900s. **Titanic Studios**, the studio where much of *Game of Thrones* is filmed, was named after the famous ship.

has planned on uniting the great houses, while off in Essos, Daenerys Targaryen has had her sights on conquering them. While touring Northern Ireland, you'll be able to see much of the Seven Kingdoms, and other key sites throughout Westeros and Essos. And, with Northern Ireland's small size, it's easy to hit several filming sites in just a few days of road tripping. Here are some of our top picks to visit on your trip:

1. Dragonstone at Downhill Strand

Aptly named, Dragonstone was the original home of House Targaryen—the family of Daenerys (commonly known as the Mother of Dragons, amongst other names). The site fell to the Baratheons, and it was there that Melisandre, the Red Woman, eerily burned the old gods on the beach in service to the Lord of Light. This scenic beach is Downhill Strand, which rests in the wake of the eighteenth century ruins of Mussenden Temple, making it an ideal location for portentous flames.

2. The Iron Islands at Ballintoy Harbour

The craggy coastline of County Antrim offers an ideal location for the Greyjoy's home. Home to a sparsely populated fishing village, Ballintoy Harbour becomes an iconic location of the Iron Islands. It offers viewers the first glimpse of the rocky Iron Islands in the series, shown when Theon Greyjoy docks at Pyke to seek an alliance with his father Balon. With only 165 residents, Ballintoy is small, and has remained largely unchanged in its history.

3. Birthplace of the Shadow Baby at Cushendon Caves

Ser Davos Seaworth has had to handle a lot of ups and downs in the past few seasons of *Game of Thrones*, and escorting a very pregnant Melisandre into a cave to give birth to the haunting shadow baby to assassinate Renly Baratheon was definitely an unexpected (and terrifying) experience for him. Located at Cushendon Caves on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland, this site includes an inviting coastline with rock outcroppings, and a walkway that leads you into the caves.

4. The Kingsroad at the Dark Hedges

Immediately recognizable by its serpentine tree trunks, The Kingsroad is an integral road in *Game of Thrones*, making its first appearance in season one of the series. The real location—the Dark Hedges—was created in the eighteenth century when the Stuart family planted rows of beech trees to impress visitors as they came to the entrance of their home. The hundreds-year-old trees mark a popular road for road-tripping, and you won't even need to disguise yourself to cross it like Arya Stark did.

5. The Dothraki Grasslands at Shillanavogy Valley

When we first meet Khal Drogo's khalasar in season one, the nomadic herd has camped in a vast verdant field before departing for Vaes Dothrak. This scene is recreated in the Shillanavogy Valley, which is located beneath Slemish Mountain in County Antrim. Walking through this lush valley instantly transports visitors back to the beginning of Khal Drogo and Daenerys Targaryen's marriage.

6. Winterfell, Home of House Stark at Castle Ward

The capital of the North, Winterfell is the ancestral home of House Stark, a family that has seen its share of ups and downs since the onset of *Game of Thrones*. But you only have to think about happier times when you visit Castle Ward, the eighteenth-century mansion where Winterfell is reimagined for the screen. Castle Ward presents a blend of Gothic and classical architecture, making it a distinctive site to visit in County Down. The castle showcases the iconic courtyard, a farmyard, and armory—all featured in the show.

7. The Haunted Forest at Tollymore Forest Park

From the opening scene of the series, The Haunted Forest sets an ominous tone for *Game of Thrones* viewers. Located north of the Wall, this snowy forest is home to primordial trees, and more alarmingly, the army of undead White Walkers. The forest is filmed in historic Tollymore Forest Park, located in the east of County Down. Walking through the park, visitors find a meandering river, stone follies and bridges, and exotic trees. And with any luck, no white walkers will appear from behind an ancient oak tree. Of course, you can bring a shard of dragon glass, just in case.

8. Beric Dondarrion's Hideout at Pollnagollum Cave

Although Arya Stark tried to hide while on the Kingsroad, she was temporarily captured and brought to the Brotherhood Without Banners' Hideout in the Hollow Hill, a cave in the Riverlands. Perhaps the most famous of the brotherhood is Beric Dondarrion, who has been resurrected several times throughout his life. This cave is reimagined from Pollnagollum Cave, which is a part of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark. This park is comprised of a maze of underground passages, making it a mysterious walking tour for visitors to the county.

DID YOU KNOW?

Local Northern Ireland jeweler Steensons creates many inspired adornments for the drama, including the wedding crowns worn by Queen Margaery Tyrell and Joffrey Baratheon, Sansa's poison necklace, and the Lannister pendants. Visit the workshop in Glenarm for a closer look.

9. The Red Fork at Inch Abbey

One of the three main rivers in the aptly named Riverlands, the Red Fork is host to several pertinent events throughout *Game of Thrones*. At the Red Fork, Catelyn Stark learned of her husband Ned's death, Jaime Lannister was captured, and Robb Stark was crowned King of the North. The scenes were filmed at Inch Abbey, a 12th century stone structure, now in ruin. The abbey ruins offer a captivating and ominous backdrop for these famous moments in the drama.

10. Castle Black at Magheramorne Quarry

The ancient headquarters of The Night's Watch and home to Jon Snow—and quite a lot of drama—Castle Black is a fortress on the Wall. The foreboding post is filmed in a now abandoned limestone quarry in the hamlet of Magheramorne. The setting provides the courtyard, ravenry, mess hall, barracks and stone wall for the set, which is the basis for the ice wall that protects the northern border of Westeros.

EXPERIENCE *GAME OF THRONES*

Visitors to Northern Ireland can get even closer into the world of *Game of Thrones* by participating in curated experiences. There are dozens of tours throughout the region, including chauffeured trips on land and sea, film tours by bicycle, self-guided tours, and even overnight experiences.

Three *Game of Thrones* Experiences You Can't Miss

We've selected our favorite *Game of Thrones* activities for you to try while visiting Northern Ireland. Each of these activities takes place at famous filming locations, so it's easy to add these experiences into your GOT itinerary.

1. Be a Guest in Winterfell

In addition to a tour of the grounds, the beloved Stark family home of Winterfell provides activities that *Game of Thrones* fans will revel in, all of which include a greeting by a Maester and costumes to make guests feel even more at home in Winterfell. Located at Castle Ward in County Down, Winterfell offers the following experiences to make you feel at home in The North:

Take Aim

In the courtyard, visitors can participate in an archery tour, where they'll dress like a Stark while trying a hand at medieval archery, hoping for outcomes more like Arya than Bran when picking up their bows and arrows.

Eat like a King

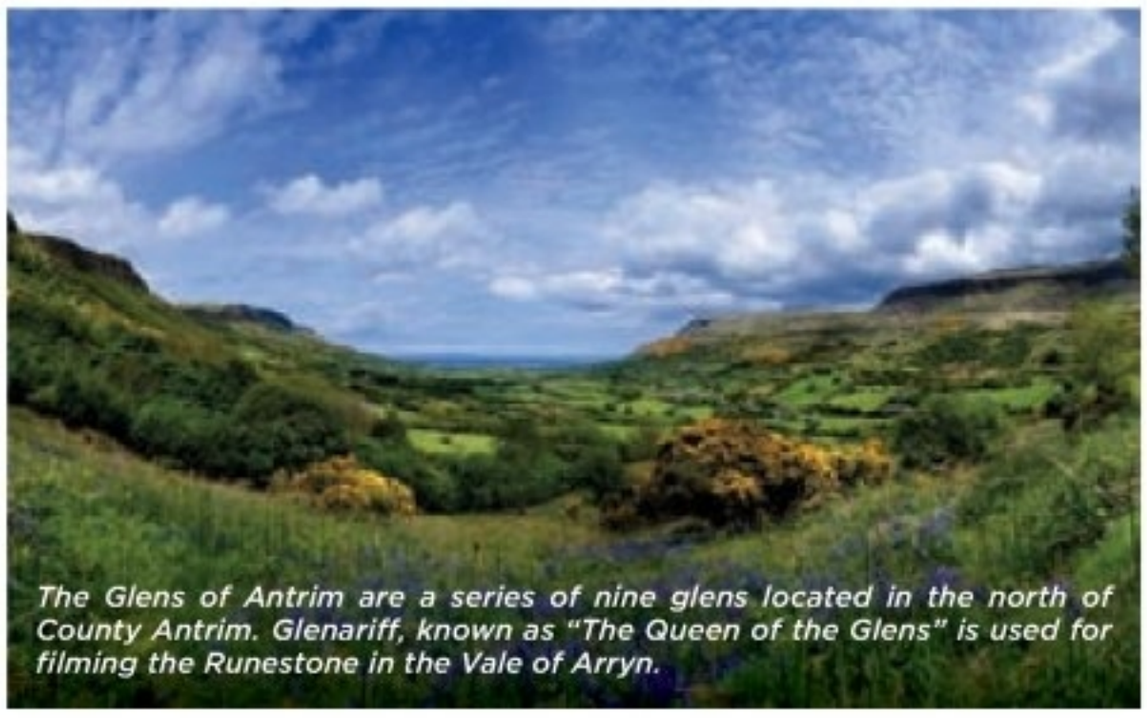
Guests can relive the welcoming feast that was laid out for King Robert Baratheon when he visited the Starks in season one. The medieval banquet includes fire pits, benches draped with reindeer skins, deadly wine, and traditional music.

Meet the Direwolves

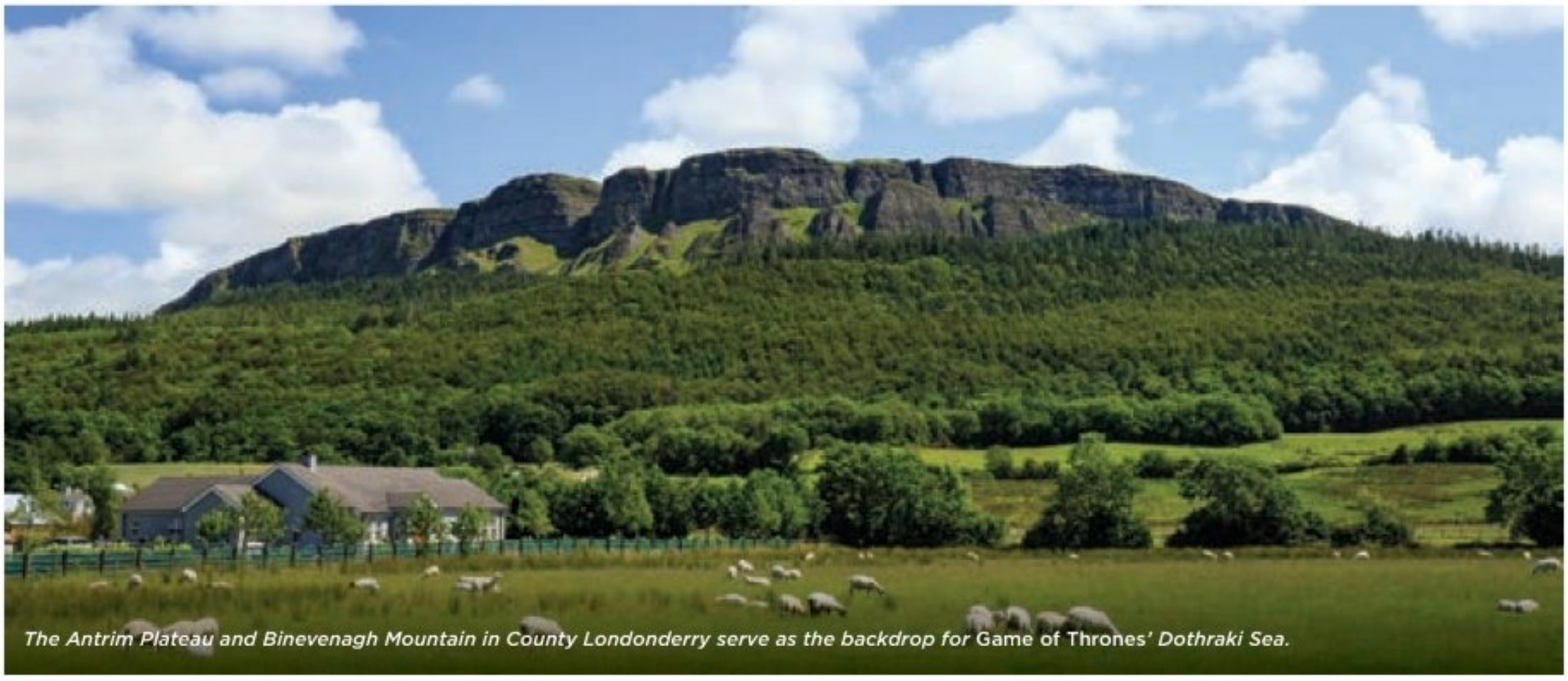
If some of your favorite *Game of Thrones* characters are of the furry variety, meeting two of the Stark's Direwolves is a must while touring Winterfell. Now grown pups from the first season, Odin and Thor are Northern Inuit dogs and can be met at the castle with prior arrangement.

DID YOU KNOW?

Game of Thrones employs more local Northern Ireland residents than the country's civil service does.



The Glens of Antrim are a series of nine glens located in the north of County Antrim. Glenariff, known as "The Queen of the Glens" is used for filming the Runestone in the Vale of Arryn.



The Antrim Plateau and Binevenagh Mountain in County Londonderry serve as the backdrop for Game of Thrones' *Dothraki Sea.*

One of the most photographed sites in Northern Ireland, Mussenden Temple rests high above the beaches of Downhill Strand. This site was used for filming Dragonstone, the ancestral home of House Targaryen.

Door 7: Gracehill House, Ballymoney, County Antrim

2. Spend a Night in the Haunted Forest

Although the night is dark and full of terrors, brave visitors can spend the night in the Haunted Forest. This overnight glamping experience is much more welcoming than what members of the Night's Watch had to deal with beyond the wall. Located in sprawling Tollymore Forest Park, the setting includes medieval ruins, lush forests full of centuries-old trees, waterways, and gentle rolling hills. It's no wonder that the Free Folk would choose to settle in such an environment, that is, until you remember that White Walkers are becoming more and more abundant in the forest. Wood pods offer a warm, cozy camping experience amidst the ancient trees of the Haunted Forest.

3. Take to the Sea

If you feel like an Ironborn, touring *Game of Thrones* by water allows you to see the sites from a different perspective. Setting sail on Stangford Lough in a boat that flies the Stark flag, this tour explores the coastal beauty of Westeros including Winterfell Castle, The Twins, and Robb Stark's Camp. With the wind in your face and the ocean around you, you'll feel like a salt king—without having to drown and come back to life like Euron Greyjoy. An additional sea safari option visits Ballintoy Harbour, Murlough Bay, and the cliffs that are often pictured as backdrops in the series.

Visit Northern Ireland like Tyrion Would

Northern Ireland is known for a lively pub scene, so be sure to visit your share and toast to one of the wisest Westerosi, Tyrion Lannister. As he famously said in season six, "That's what I do. I drink and know things." With this next segment, you'll be able to drink and know things too.

DOORS OF THRONES

In January 2016, a storm brought down some of the famous three-hundred-year-old trees from the Dark Hedges, where the Kingsroad in *Game of Thrones* is filmed.. Although this loss was upsetting, the felled trees have been salvaged and turned into distinctive works of art, giving them new life.

The fallen trees have been reimagined into intricately crafted wood doors, each of which represents a different *Game of Thrones* episode from season six. Together, the doors use iconic symbols and scenes to tell the story of the season. Each of the ten doors is on display throughout Northern Ireland in pubs, cafes, and inns. All of the doors are located near known filming locations, so if visitors come across a door, they will know they're in *Game of Thrones* territory. This multi-location art exhibit allows visitors to see another side of season six while enjoying a pint—or more—of Guinness.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

While you anxiously await season seven, a visit to Northern Ireland will help you get your *Game of Thrones* fix. With dozens of sites throughout the small yet impressive region, you can experience Westeros like only the most well-traveled Westerosi has. Belfast International Airport welcomes direct flights from Newark with United Airlines. There are additional direct services from JFK, Philadelphia, and Boston to Dublin, which is a short drive to Northern Ireland (90 min).

This summer, dare to play the *Game of Thrones* in Northern Ireland.■

DOORS OF THRONES LOCATIONS

DOOR 1: The Cuan Hotel, Strangford, County Down

DOOR 2: Fiddler's Green, Portaferry, County Down

DOOR 3: Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, County Down

DOOR 4: William Blake, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh

DOOR 5: Owen's Bar, Limavady, County Londonderry

DOOR 6: Fullerton Arms, Ballycastle, County Antrim

DOOR 7: Gracehill House, Ballymoney, County Antrim

DOOR 8: Mary McBrides, Cushendun, County Antrim

DOOR 9: Ballygally Castle Hotel, County Antrim

DOOR 10: Visit **Ireland.com/gameofthrones** to find out the final Door of Thrones location unveiled today in Northern Ireland

DID YOU KNOW?

Queen Elizabeth II was one of the many visitors to *Game of Thrones* territory, visiting Titanic Studios in Belfast in 2014. She stopped by the Iron Throne used in the series, which is quite different from the throne she is accustomed to.

Kanye West debuts racy new video

We will never be able to unsee what we just saw.

On Friday, Kanye West debuted the music video for his song "Famous" to a live audience at The Forum in Los Angeles. There are all kinds of adjectives to describe the video, but here are just a few that come to mind: bizarre, scandalous, provocative and totally racy.

In possibly his most audacious work yet, the rapper's music video features himself and his wife, Kim Kardashian, naked in bed alongside the equally naked bodies of Rihanna, Caitlyn Jenner, Donald Trump, Taylor Swift and more — in case anyone forgot, the song boasts infamous, Swift-bashing lyrics: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex. Why? I made that bitch famous."

There are still many questions surrounding the authenticity of the celebrity cameos — while West and Kardashian certainly play themselves in the video, no one is sure whether any of the other appearances were the real deal. According to Rolling Stone, many of the bodies were created synthetically. Still, the credits of the music video give an eerie "special thanks" to every celebrity involved "for being famous."

For the next week, the video will stream exclusively on Jay Z's music streaming service, Tidal. Be warned: It is *seriously* NSFW.

Taylor brings Tom home to meet the parents

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Taylor Swift introduced new love interest Tom Hiddleston to her parents in the singer's hometown of Nashville last Thursday, US Weekly reported.

The source told the magazine that the pair had lunch at Epice, and headed back to her apartment where the parents met the 35-year-old actor — pretty quick for a two-week relationship.

The fledgling couple then joined singer Holly Williams and her husband for dinner at Adele's, an insider tells US — where the two weren't afraid to show their affections.

"They looked like they were having an amazing time. Taylor was laughing at Tom's jokes," an insider reportedly told US.

the word

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50 Cent arrested for potty mouth

This week, 50 Cent has gone from being "in da club" to being behind bars.

On Saturday, the 40-year-old rapper (whose real name is Curtis Jackson) was arrested for using profanity at his performance in St. Kitts and Nevis. It is illegal to curse in public in the Caribbean island nation.

Although warned not to use profanity in advance, 50 Cent used the word "motherf—er" in front of a crowd of 40,000 people. According to TMZ, the police showed up after the performance to take him to the station, booking him for using profanity in public.

50 Cent will have to wait until courts re-open on Monday to settle the issue. He will most likely walk away after paying a fine. Back in 2003, fellow rapper DMX was also arrested in St. Kitts and Nevis for the same charge — he ended up paying a $376 fine and issuing an apology after the incident.

We're just surprised 50 dropped only one F bomb.

Kylie and Tyga back together?

Are Kylie Jenner and Tyga giving it another shot?

A source told People Magazine that the rapper is "working hard" to get her back.

"Tyga seems more interested in getting back together than Kylie does," the source reportedly said. "Kylie still seems to enjoy being single. She acts like she is figuring things out."

The sources add that Jenner, 18, "likes Tyga's attention" and having "the upper hand now."

Who doesn't?

The two were also spotted holding hands at Kanye West's video premiere for "Famous" Friday night, though the two aren't among the recognizable names depicted nude in the film.

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Elle Fanning loved going to the dark side

In "The Neon Demon," the young actress gets to play what she thinks is an evil model.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Elle Fanning just graduated high school. As in, the week before we spoke. But the actress is already a seasoned vet at 18, having been on screens since she was 3. In "The Neon Demon," she adds Nicolas Winding Refn ("Drive") to the impressive list of directors she's worked with, including David Fincher, Cameron Crowe and both Francis Ford and Sofia Coppola.In the film, she plays Jesse, a teen model who enters a particularly hellish version of the fashion industry, with unsightly results.

So who or what is the "Neon Demon"?

Elle Fanning plays a 16-year-old model who rises to the top in Nicolas Winding Refn's dark "The Neon Demon." BROAD GREEN PICTURES

I think it's me. [Laughs] I think it's Jesse. But it's not only Jesse; it's this spirit, kind of like a disease that infects people when they're beauty-obsessed. Everyone's kind of beauty-obsessed. It's very universal. In fairy tales the princess is always young and a virgin and beautiful. It's not just physicality; it's also this aura of being young and having that thing. I think Jesse represents that. We said she was like Dorothy in "Oz" but if she was evil.

Forever young

Fashion is a world, like the motion picture industry, that's obsessed with beauty and youth. How do you handle that as a young person?

I'm in this generation where there's a lot of social media. There's great things about it. But it's scary as well. You're constantly comparing yourself to these dead images. You think, "That's beauty." Teenagers are looking at these images and thinking, "That's perfection." But perfect doesn't exist. When you see a photo of someone with a normal body who hasn't been Photoshopped, they think, "That's not perfect." But that's real. This is not real.

The filmmaker Wim Wenders once called selfies a perversion of photography, because people look inside, not outside.

But is that bad? It might not be. There is that line when it crosses over into narcissism. But you should love yourself, and you should think you're beautiful.

Do you really think she's evil? It's a bit ambiguous and other characters do worse than her.

They do. But I think she drives them to do it. She's the poison that infects the city and those around her. And she's dangerous. She's gaining this power and realizing how to use it. You can look at her as evil. Or you can see she's not that innocent at all. I looked at her as a vampire. You don't know how old she is, really. You don't know what happened to her parents. She's plopped there, alone, and I think she had this plan. When we were filming it was there were all these layers underneath. She's so mysterious and she's so toxic.

GETTY IMAGES

This is an intense film. How did Refn chill you out?

He did not chill me out at all. [Laughs] I was like, "Yes!" I was so excited. We actually made it darker during filming. I was so on-board even before I read the script, just hearing that he was doing a movie about a teenage girl — the king of blood and masculinity and violence. That combination was very cool to me — as was to have a woman as complex as this, too.

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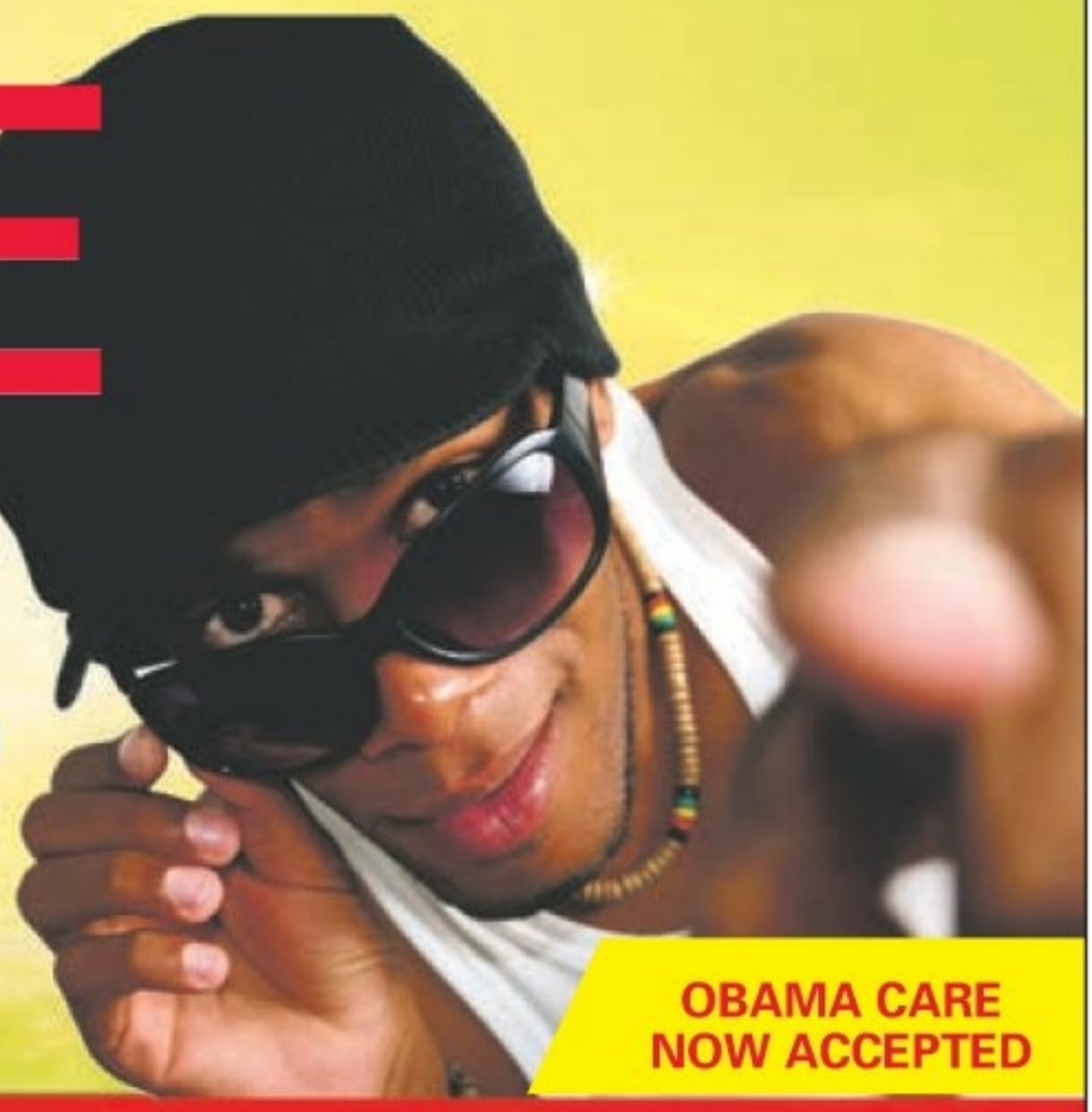

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Jacqueline Constance on the Philly music scene and loop pedal R&B

Catch the singer at North Philly's Pub Webb on June 28.

MARIALENA RAGO
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Just listen to Jacqueline Constance's 2014 album "The Jacqueline Show" and you'll see the singer has a style and sound that is all her own. She credits some of it to the loop pedal. "It allows me to be supercreative on stage and have full control of what I am doing," says the Philadelphia native. We chat with Constance about her concert at Pub Webb.

If you go

The Soundcheck Series
June 28, 8 p.m.
Pub Webb
1527 Cecil B. Moore Ave.
pubweb.com

Jacqueline Constance is "uber-excited" for her gig at Pub Webb. CLARENCE PEARSALL

Are you excited for the Soundcheck Series at Pub Webb?
I'm uber-excited. This is one of the first shows I have been able to headline in a long time. I'm really excited to just get on stage and have people pay attention to what I'm doing.

What can people expect at the concert?
People can expect a little bit of everything. I'm heavily influenced by a lot of different genres and artists. I know people are used to seeing me use the loop pedal but they will be able to see a live band, some loop pedal and some integration of R&B music. Just everything that I am accustomed to doing, but times 10.

The concert series really concentrates on upcoming Philly artists. What do you enjoy about the music scene in Philly?
The Philadelphia music scene is so alive and vibrant with talent. I don't think there is another city that can really challenge Philly with the level of talent that we have. It's one of those cities that, no matter where you go, no matter what genre of music you are into, you can find something that tickles your fancy.

This Soundcheck Series features industry mentors as well as artists. Who is your mentor?
At this point my mentor is also my manager. His name is Kaodi and goes by DJ Ambush in some circles. I ended up meeting him two years ago. We ended up talking music and the culture of music in Philly, and we just clicked from there.

How did you get interested in singing/music?
I have always been interested in music. I have been singing since I was 9 years old. I didn't know that I wanted to sing until I was about 9 and my mom — without me knowing — took me to a talent show. That was my first performance ever on stage and I have been doing it ever since.

Your sound is so different than anything I have heard. How did you get inspired to create it?
I wish I could give some sort of ethereal experience, but I just create. What you hear a lot of the time is me just creating music that I want to listen to, and it just so happens that other people want to listen to it too. It's one of those things that is very fluid for me and I just do it. I don't really have a process.

On your Twitter you describe yourself as a "loop pedal artist." What exactly is that?
A loop pedal is a piece of musical equipment that you use. It's been around for a little while but it has gained some traction recently because of artists like Kimbra and Ed Sheeran. It's a device where you are able to stack and loop segments of audio on top of each other. It adds a different level of creativity on top of the fact that I can sing. It allows me to be supercreative on stage and have full control of what I am doing.

Do you like experimenting with different sounds?
Absolutely.

Who are you listening to right now? Who are your top three picks?
In my favorite playlist right now, I just got into a young man named Gallant. Chance the Rapper's album is one that I have been playing every day, and Kendrick Lamar's "Untitled." Those three artists I have been listening to at least once a day.

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Take a selfie with a 40-foot-tall T. rex outside the Academy of Natural Sciences. MIKE SERVEDIO

'Dinosaurs Unearthed' at the Academy of Natural Sciences

Dino-mite!

ALBERT LEE
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letters@metro.us

If you've been on the Ben Franklin Parkway in the past week, you've certainly seen the gigantic animatronic T. rex taking up residence outside the Academy of Natural Sciences. Well, it's time for a formal introduction. His name is Rexie, and he's bringing his friend Trixie the Triceratops for a six-month stay to promote the exhibit "Dinosaurs Unearthed," which is open through January.

In the exhibit, back by popular demand, visitors can look forward to a slew of animatronic dinosaurs, 15 in all. The exhibit includes an encounter with a camouflaged T. rex, interactive stations at which users can make the dinosaurs roar or swing their tails, and hands-on elements such as touching a piece of coprolite, the technical term for dinosaur poop (no emoji needed).

The goal of the exhibit is to help "humanize the dinosaurs, as they were a natural part of the ecosystem," says Jennifer Sontchi, exhibits director for the academy. "They're not monsters. They had families."

So be sure to bring yours to get up close and personal with dinosaurs this summer for a roaring good time.

If you go

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No spoilers for Kimiko Glenn

The actress weighs in on the show's shocking fourth season.

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Brook Soso found love in a hopeless place. JOJO WHILDEN/NETFLIX

The fourth season of "Orange Is the New Black" dropped on Netflix last Friday, and it wouldn't be totally out of line for us to assume you may have rabidly consumed all 13 episodes. If you have (and are already scouring the web for Season 5 spoilers), read on: We tapped actress Kimiko Glenn who plays tree-hugging incessant babbler Brook Soso to fill us in on her vital role in that shocking finale.

Actually, just kidding! "I don't even want to allude to it!" she says. "No one knew until we read through [the script], and I thought, 'This is not real.'"

But what is real is the life Glenn gives to Soso in Season 4. Since her character's Season 2 introduction, fans had only known her to be the half-Asian hippie who once lived in a condemned tree (and was subsequently arrested) and now lives in Litchfield, where she has yet to find her own group of friends in the racially divided prison.

Following a failed suicide attempt at the end of Season 3, we kick off the fourth with Soso's burgeoning friendship/romance with fellow inmate, Poussey (Samira Wiley). Glenn, who is currently in the midst of a Broadway run in "Waitress," weighs in on her character's Season 4 arc, sharing scenes with the sensational Wiley.

This interview includes spoilers from Season 4.

What is it like for you as an actress knowing that the day after your new season drops people could have already binge watched it?

Well, it's crazy because it's been less of an explosion this year than other times. I think because it's on the fourth season, the diehards are still bingeing but a lot of people are enjoying it one episode at the time. In the past, it's been like a gunshot, where everyone's seen the show the next day and asking about the new season already. It's been slow and steady this time. It's nice.

We finally get a Soso backstory episode this season. Were you excited when you found out?

Any time you get more material for a character it's exciting because it's another clue as to who they are. With television, the possibilities are endless, and then there's the fact that we don't know specifically what she's done [to go to jail] yet, that's exciting, too.

GETTY IMAGES

There's the theme this season of characters discovering their own racist tendencies, and Soso was one of the most surprising when she makes assumptions about Poussey's upbringing.

I was a little bit shocked that she would be as insensitive as she was in that situation. She's so educated and socially conscious about that sort of thing, so I was surprised she let herself blab. But then, no matter who you are, or what education level you've achieved, you might hold some prejudice because of your parents or surroundings as a kid. I was just surprised she would so openly do it.

Let's talk about Poussey and Soso's romance. Honestly, there is no one better to have a scene with or work with or be able to kiss than Samira Wiley. And selfishly, for me, I haven't had a proper scene partner — someone to listen to me and respond and respect what I say as Brook.. It was a game-changer for me. I felt liberated. My character gets to smile and feel loved. You know someone more when you see someone loving them.

College prep should start this summer

Rising seniors who want to get ahead can build momentum before the school year begins.

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"No sleep till college" is a phrase coined by sleep-deprived mommy bloggers, but it's also a fitting mantra for rising high school seniors undertaking the college application process.

Yet if they start gearing up for college this summer, seniors need not adopt the sleep schedule of a colicky newborn. Jay Bacrania, CEO and co-owner of college prep company Signet Education, says that "now is the time to look at college lists, and based on those lists, understand the requirements around testing, applying and the time line [for each school]."

By spending a bit of their summer prepping for college, rising seniors will set themselves up for success. Their future selves will thank them.

Make a college list, check it twice

Bacrania recommends rising seniors apply to eight to 12 colleges, which should be a mix of "safety schools, target schools and reach schools."

Have your heart set on one university? Can't narrow it down? Bacrania suggests refining or expanding the list by thinking broadly about what a good fit means: location, campus culture, academic life, etc. If you're not satisfied with test scores, Bacrania says now is the time to register for a second take.

Break it down

Let's not mince words: The college-application process is a slog. But sequencing the process step-by-step and defining "all the milestones you need to hit" can mitigate the sense of overwhelm. Bacrania's advice: Understand testing and essay requirements for each school. Start cranking on those essays. Prioritize early deadlines. And take solace in the fact that your summer head start is worth it: "Students should be able to work on 80 percent [of the application] over the summer, and if they do, they should be in great shape once the school year rolls around."

Don't underestimate the essay

Like a delicate orchid that takes years to grow from a seedling, the college essay simply cannot be rushed. "When you think about writing a college essay, think about it more like writing a novel than writing a class paper," says Bacrania. "You sit with it over the course of multiple weeks, if not months, and let the story evolve."

Remember, the operative word in "personal essay" is "personal."

"Students have to be really cognizant of the fact that admissions officers are using these essays almost instead of being able to sit down and having dinner."

Find a mentor

Not everyone has the "luxury" of a micro-managing helicopter parent, or the means to pay for outside help. If you're in this boat, take initiative to find someone — a teacher, a friend's older sibling, a community-based leader — who can guide you. Sometimes, says Bacrania, it's as simple as asking. "You might go to them and say, 'Hey, I'm going through this process, can you help me?'"

Prepare for college

Once applications are locked down, seniors should take a hard look at themselves and "use this last part of senior year to cultivate those skills." That could mean honing writing skills or dealing with constant procrastination or test anxiety. Part of prepping for the unexpectedly poignant transition from high school to college is self-reflection, says Bacrania: "There's a season to senior year. It feels like a beautiful fall. And students never know how beautiful that time could be."

Scholastic's summer program aims to exercise young minds

Governors across the nation are showing support for this free vacation reading challenge.

HELEN MURPHY
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In its 10th year, the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge is helping children avoid the "summer slide," a common loss of essential skills due to brain inactivity over summer vacation.

The free program allows kids to access reading resources and log their reading minutes online, plus earn weekly digital reading rewards. However, the real reward is the ability to return to the classroom in the fall better prepared to perform well in school, according to Scholastic spokeswoman Maggie McGuire.

"We know that when kids read more throughout the year, and especially continue it throughout the summer months, their ability to continue to grow as readers, be competent when it comes to learning comprehension and vocabulary, and all the skills you need to succeed as you advance in grades and in life are strengthened," she said.

Digital rewards include exclusive stories from popular children's authors, while the school with the most reading minutes logged has the opportunity to be in the "2017 Scholastic Book of World Records."

The program is based on research about reading habits and the importance of reading all summer long, not only during the school year.

Don't let your kids fall down the "summer slide." GETTY IMAGES

McGuire compares the necessity of exercising the brain to flexing any other muscle.

"It's like if an athlete works out only six months of the year and they never work out those other six months — then when they get back to the sport, it's going to take a while to ramp up again. We see the same thing happening with the 'summer slide,'" she said.

The program emphasizes the importance of letting kids choose their own books to read. According to Scholastic, 91 percent of children aged 6-17 reported that they are most likely to finish and enjoy books they picked out themselves.

This year, 43 governors and their spouses are supporting the program with donations of 500 books to a school of their choice. Since the challenge began, participants have logged more than 1 billion total reading minutes.

"We wanted to turn it into a really fun, positive, motivating and inspiring thing, and not make it feel like it's didactic or homework or a chore because in the end, reading is really fun — it's a form of entertainment," said McGuire.

For more info: scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2016

Scholastic's top summer reads for kids

In a Scholastic poll, when asked what type of books they liked to read, the majority of children aged 6-17 said they preferred books that made them laugh. Here are some of the funniest reads recommended by Scholastic:

For toddlers: The "No, David!" series by David Shannon features a rebellious little boy who doesn't like to follow rules.

For elementary schoolers: The "Junie B. Jones" series by Barbara Park follows the life of sassy, rambunctious Junie B. Jones as she navigates her way through elementary school.

For middle schoolers: The "I Funny" series by James Patterson centers on a middle school boy who dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian.

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Phillies player power rankings

A look at who's powered the Phils so far this season.

KYLE PHILLIPPI
@KPhillippiMetro
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Odubel Herrera has been the Phillies' top performer so far this season. GETTY IMAGES

The MLB All-Star voting will wrap up on Thursday. As it looks right now, the Phillies will only have one representative on the National League team. The best guess would either be Jeanmar Gomez, who is six saves behind Jeurys Familia for most in the league, or Odubel Herrera, who leads the Phillies in average, on-base percentage and runs.

With the All-Star Game approaching on July 12, let's do a player power rankings of the top eight members of the Phillies:

1 CF Odubel Herrera

He's easily been the most consistent player on the Phillies' roster, owning an average that is 40 points higher than the runner-up.

2 RP Jeanmar Gomez

That run Gomez went on in the beginning of the season was remarkable. He went 9-for-9 to start the season. He now sits at 20 saves.

3 SP Vince Velasquez

His injury derailed a dominant start to the season. He holds a 5-2 mark with a 3.65 ERA, but most impressive is that he touts at 10.65 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

4 RP Hector Neris

A bit of a surprise here. Neris has struck out 48 guys in 40 1/3 innings going into Sunday. He also has the best ERA among full-time relievers at 2.68.

5 1B Tommy Joseph

He's played in 34 games, but Joseph has proven to be able to rake. He has 14 RBI with eight homers in 115 at-bats. If he can get his average up, he'll easily be among the Phillies' leaders this season.

6 3B Maikel Franco

It's been pretty ugly at times for Franco, but his power numbers have at least come through. He leads the team in home runs (12), RBI (37) and slugging percentage (.429).

7 SP Aaron Nola

Record aside, Nola has 95 strikeouts in 87 2/3 innings and is tied for the team lead in quality starts with 10.

8 SP Jeremy Hellickson

It's been a mix of bad luck and some bad breaks for Hellickson this season, but he's still been a reliable starter for the most part. He's 5-6 with 84 strikeouts to 24 walks.

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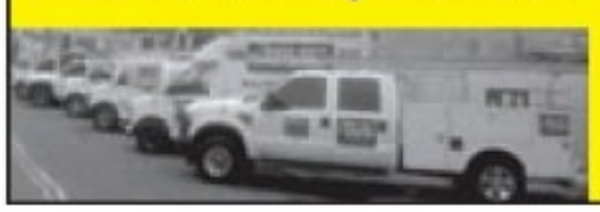

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Sixers ready to take next step after monster draft

The future looks incredibly bright, partly thanks to the Sixers' former GM.

ANDY JASNER
@MetroPhilly
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Ben Simmons was taken No. 1 overall by the Sixers this past Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

Somewhere, Sam Hinkie has to be grinning.

Love him or despise him, the former 76ers general manager set up the franchise to take a major step forward in the 2016 NBA Draft. The tough part was dealing with the 199 losses over the last three seasons.

Trust the process?

Well, that process was further put into motion by new President of Basketball Operations Bryan Colangelo and his front office staff. Without those pieces made available by Hinkie, the success of this draft would not be as noticeable.

By now, everyone knows that the Sixers selected LSU forward Ben Simmons with the No. 1 overall pick. Duke's Brandon Ingram was an option, but the Sixers clearly made the right move here.

Thanks in large part to Hinkie, the Sixers also held the Nos. 24 and 26 picks with previous trades involving the Cleveland Cavaliers and Oklahoma City Thunder. The Sixers went the foreign route and took 6-foot-7 forward Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot from France. Two picks later, they drafted 18-year-old shooting guard Furkan Korkmaz, who's currently a teammate of Dario Saric.

Leading up to the draft, the popular thought was to move up by dealing the likes of Nerlens Noel or Jahlil Okafor. That still could happen, but Colangelo didn't panic and pull the trigger by mortgaging the future.

With Joel Embiid hopefully back and Saric potentially on the way, the Sixers will be much improved.

They're in place to compete now and they have plenty of assets in the future via Hinkie's creativity.

> *"The deals that were presented, the assets that were asked for, the players that were asked for, we decided it was not in our best interest."*
>
> Bryan Colangelo on not pulling the trigger on a blockbuster trade on draft night

"As we continue to look at how we're going to put this team together, it's far from a completed project," Colangelo told reporters. "This is a work in progress that will continue throughout the summer."

The phone rang in the days leading up to the draft and throughout the fluid night but Colangelo held off on making any dramatic moves.

"The deals that were presented, the assets that were asked for, the players that were asked for, we decided it was not in our best interest," Colangelo said. "We didn't feel like any of those trade scenarios would have put us in a position where we want to be going forward, so we took a patient approach, we passed on a few opportunities where we could have reached. We still feel like this was the right chain of activity to follow."

Getting the No. 1 overall pick was something the Sixers haven't had since taking Allen Iverson in 1996. That pick worked out quite well. Simmons was the logical pick and sure looks to be a future All-Star.

"I always want to be the best player," Simmons said. "They selected me at one, so it means a lot. They believed in what I can bring to franchise."

"Ben's going to improve everything across the board, including the bottom line," Colangelo added. "He's a star figure in his own right at this age. If he does the things that are required from a basketball standpoint to continue to improve, the sky's the limit for him. Basketball, business, everything is being affected in a positive way."

Colangelo affected the future of the Sixers with a solid group of picks. Somewhere, Hinkie has to be grinning. After all, he's the one who set this whole process up.

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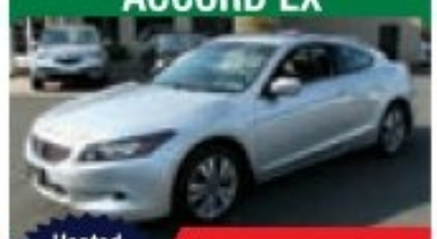
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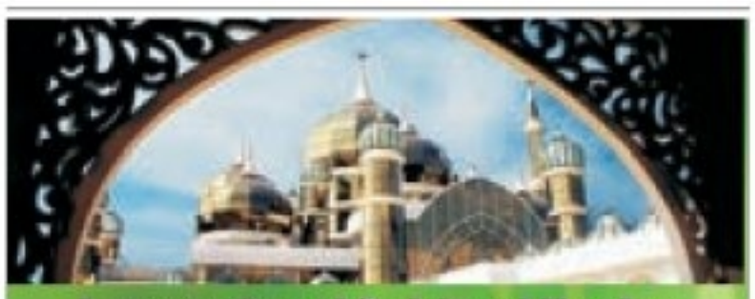
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LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, May term, 2016 , No. 002668.

Notice is hereby given that on 5/23/2016 , the petition of : Scott Mason was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Francis Henry.

The Court has fixed courtdate, 7/21/2016 at 12 P .M., in Room No. 691 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

Nonprofit Corporation
Notice is hereby given that on March 11, 2016 Articles of Incorporation were filed with the PA Dept. of State for Equal Access Legal Services, a nonprofit corporation organized
under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988, for the
purpose of providing affordable legal services on a sliding scale to individuals that are
125% to 400% of the poverty line in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties

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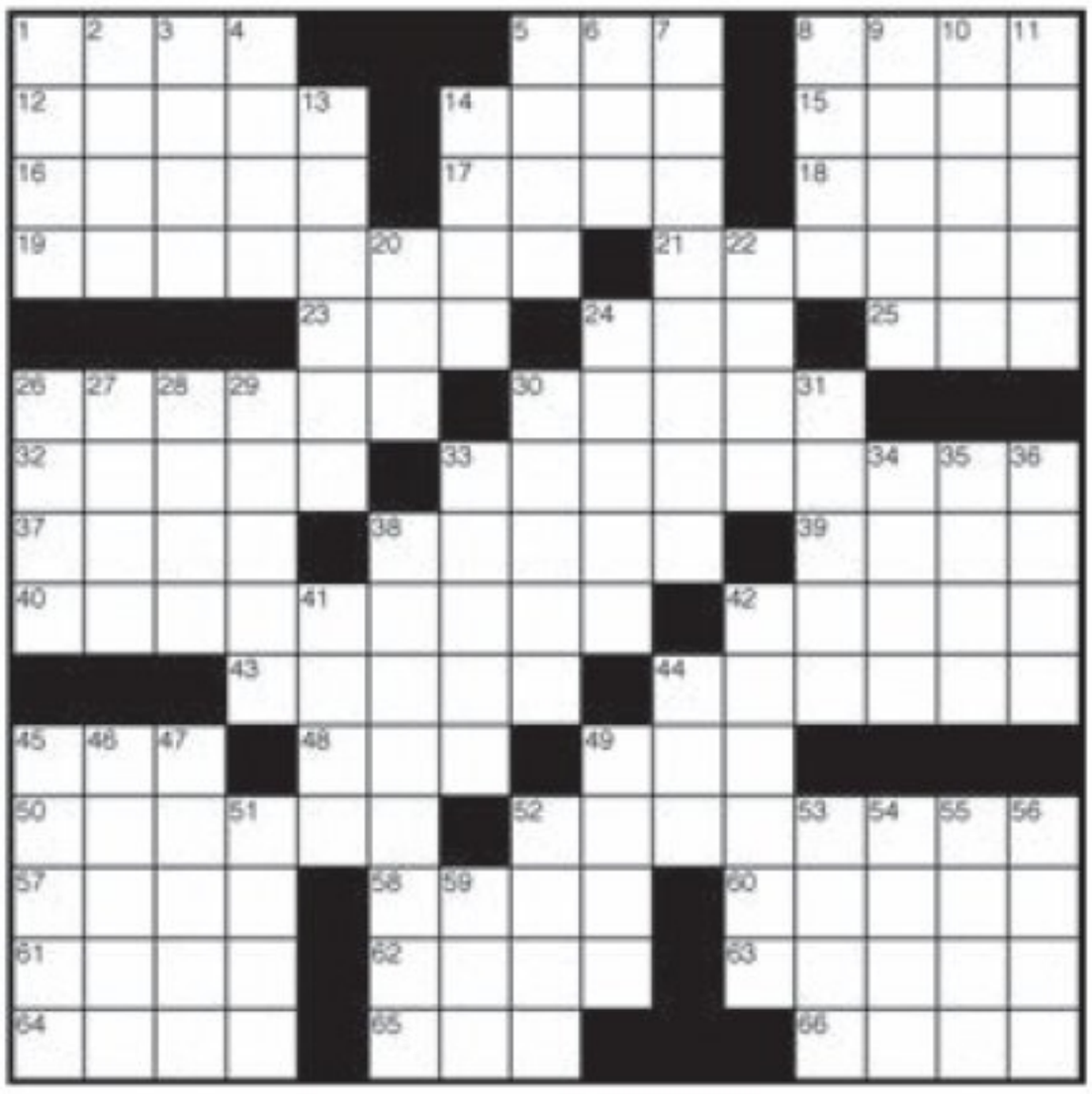

Across
1 Gape open
5 Stray
8 Concerning (2 wds.)
12 Devoured (2 wds.)
14 Insensibility
15 Picture holder
16 Oktoberfest tune
17 Chopped down
18 Horse feed
19 Dazzling
21 Within reach
23 Rollover subj.
24 Mil. rank
25 Upper hse. member
26 Mischief
30 Gave out sparingly
32 Asks for ID
33 Claimed to be
37 Fencing blade
38 Pep
39 Cry of fright
40 Root beer root
42 Mumbai wraps
43 Woods insects
44 Adorn
45 Courtroom fig.
48 Hairstyles
49 Experimental
50 Chiffonier
52 Shy
57 Hieroglyphics bird
58 Warden's fear
60 More upscale
61 Thought-provoking
62 Lawn starters
63 Troll's cousin
64 Circular current
65 Hydrocarbon suffix
66 Be aware of

Down
1 Shrill barks
2 Astride
3 Rural necessity
4 Zap
5 Woman on campus
6 Ore diggers' org.
7 Scott of oaters
8 Dwarf buffalo
9 Swedish autos
10 Kind of role
11 Folger's Mrs.
13 Loses control
14 Pottery "pet"
20 JAMA readers
22 Tub in the fridge
24 Peace —
26 Holes in one
27 Winemaking valley
28 Three, in Bolivia
29 That is (2 wds.)
30 D'Artagnan's creator
31 Tree nymph
33 Hams and sausages
34 Spare, maybe
35 Grand in scale
36 Anchor's place
38 Be my guest! (2 wds.)
41 Slave girl of opera
42 Needlework
44 Call the bookie
45 Stay
46 Floated downriver
47 Gave it a go
49 Brooklyn cagers
51 Glimpse from afar
52 Took the trolley
53 Ice Follies venue
54 Click-on item
55 Verne captain
56 Shot up
59 Am — — time?

metro.us/games

metro.us/sudoku

easy

6				3	7			8
7		8					6	4
			2			1	7	
5				1		2		
		2		7		6		
		4		5				7
	9	5			1			
2	6					9		5
3			5	6				2

hard

1				2	7		5	9
	7			6		1		
9						2	7	
		1	6					
	8		5		3		1	
					2	8		
	1	6						7
		8		5			2	
4	2		7	8				3

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Reserve judgment until you have adequate proof. If you want to make changes, sign up to learn something new, or challenge your intelligence with something that interests you.

Taurus You are best off keeping personal information a secret until you are more familiar with the people you are dealing with. A personal change will improve your appearance.

Gemini Use common sense, and concentrate on doing things that will benefit you, not someone else. A professional opportunity will require personal change.

Cancer Don't let emotional situations overwhelm you. Step back and let matters unfold naturally. If you bide your time, the tables will turn in your favor. Avoid criticism.

Leo Travel and adventure will entice you. If you use your imagination, you'll find a way to mix business with pleasure. Challenge yourself mentally and test your leadership ability.

Virgo Fix up your surroundings and take care of your responsibilities. Invest in something that will grow in value. A partnership will require an attitude adjustment on your part.

Libra Relationships will be fraught with uncertainty. If you are a quiet observer and let others take action, you'll soon know what to do. Keep the peace.

Scorpio You'll learn a lot from a loved one. The insight you receive will help you make physical improvements that will encourage you to pursue an unusual goal. Romance is encouraged.

Sagittarius Money will be needed today, so don't let your generosity leave you broke. It's important to invest in yourself, your living quarters and important relationships.

Capricorn A reaction you have will lead to partnership problems. Don't do anything until you have all the facts. Your response will change the way you move forward.

Aquarius The way you express your ideas and plans will determine the outcome of a situation you face. Choose to make changes that satisfy you, instead of trying to appease someone.

Pisces Focus on what's important to you, and follow through with your plans. Once you are finished, the outcome will surprise those who doubt you. EUGENIA LAST

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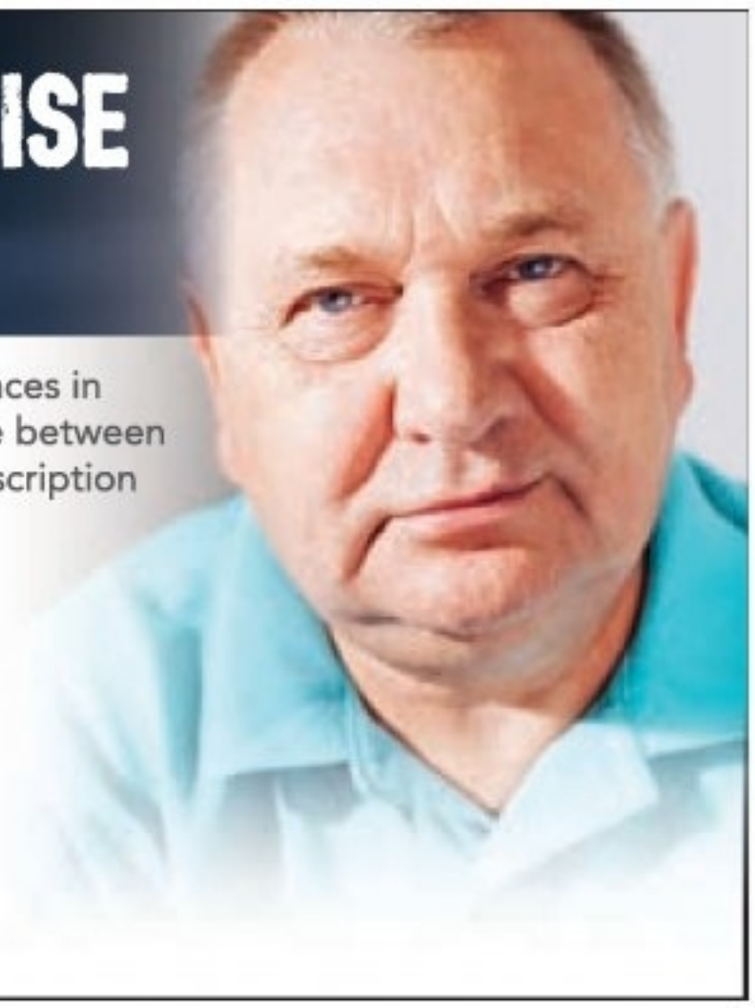

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Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for their time and travel. Transportation is available.

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DO KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA?

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DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE MILD ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking individuals with mild Alzheimer's disease for a research study. To qualify for this study, individuals should be male or female between ages 55 and 85. Other than mild Alzheimer's, they should be in general good health. Females should be postmenopausal for at least one year or surgically sterile.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for time and travel.

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